

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

97

February 7, 2017

The Honorable Ajit Pai  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th St SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai:

We write to congratulate you on your new role as Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and commend your recent establishment of the Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee. Providing the FCC with guidance on how to accelerate the deployment of high-speed internet access is a critical mission.

We have been advocating for increased rural broadband deployment for our constituents, but as you know, many rural Americans lack sufficient high-speed internet access. Thirty-nine percent of people living in rural America cannot access high-speed broadband at home compared with only four percent in urban areas. These communities are cut off from many of the innovative technologies that promise tremendous economic opportunity.

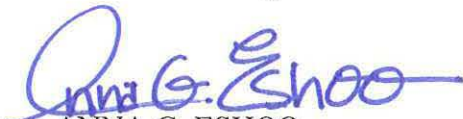
The FCC's efforts to close this digital divide in rural areas should be well defined with a targeted and clear goal. We therefore urge you to task the Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee to establish this goal and to define successful broadband deployment in rural America before moving on to more detailed policies. Without first setting a clearly defined goal, we would be concerned the Committee may miss an opportunity to comprehensively address this issue.

We look forward to hearing back from you on this issue and working with you on telecommunications policy issues, particularly those that impact rural America.

Sincerely,



PETER WELCH  
Member of Congress



ANNA G. ESHOO  
Member of Congress



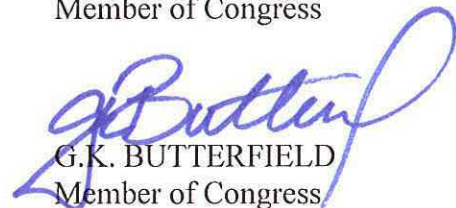
DORIS O. MATSUI  
Member of Congress



JERRY MCNERNEY  
Member of Congress



DAVID LOEBSACK  
Member of Congress



G.K. BUTTERFIELD  
Member of Congress



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

April 26, 2017

The Honorable Anna G. Eshoo  
U.S. House of Representatives  
241 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Eshoo:

Thank you for your letter supporting the recent establishment of the Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee (BDAC). In your letter, you urge that the BDAC be tasked with a targeted goal of closing the digital divide in rural America.

I share your desire to close the digital divide for the many rural Americans that lack sufficient high-speed internet access. I am focused on doing everything within the FCC's power to close the digital divide, as I said in my first remarks to the agency's terrific professional staff. The work of the BDAC will be a crucial component in our efforts to achieve this goal.

Last September, I proposed what I called a Digital Empowerment Agenda—a blueprint of policies that would accelerate the deployment of high-speed Internet access, or broadband, in communities across the country. The BDAC will provide an effective means for stakeholders to exchange ideas and develop recommendations to the Commission on broadband deployment. Its mission will be to identify regulatory barriers to infrastructure investment and make recommendations on reducing and/or removing them. This will enhance the Commission's ability to carry out its statutory responsibility to encourage broadband deployment to all Americans.

Additionally, the BDAC will draft for the Commission's consideration a model code for broadband deployment, which will cover topics like local franchising, zoning, permitting, and rights-of-way regulations. The model code will be a particularly valuable tool for rural communities that seek to access high-speed broadband but may lack the resources or the expertise to develop policies conducive to deployment. I expect the BDAC commence deliberations this spring.

I appreciate your interest in this matter and I look forward to working with you as we work to bridge the digital divide. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

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Ajit V. Pai





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

April 26, 2017

The Honorable G.K. Butterfield  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2080 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Butterfield:

Thank you for your letter supporting the recent establishment of the Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee (BDAC). In your letter, you urge that the BDAC be tasked with a targeted goal of closing the digital divide in rural America.

I share your desire to close the digital divide for the many rural Americans that lack sufficient high-speed internet access. I am focused on doing everything within the FCC's power to close the digital divide, as I said in my first remarks to the agency's terrific professional staff. The work of the BDAC will be a crucial component in our efforts to achieve this goal.

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

April 26, 2017

The Honorable Jerry McNerney  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2265 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman McNerney:

Thank you for your letter supporting the recent establishment of the Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee (BDAC). In your letter, you urge that the BDAC be tasked with a targeted goal of closing the digital divide in rural America.

I share your desire to close the digital divide for the many rural Americans that lack sufficient high-speed internet access. I am focused on doing everything within the FCC's power to close the digital divide, as I said in my first remarks to the agency's terrific professional staff. The work of the BDAC will be a crucial component in our efforts to achieve this goal.

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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

April 26, 2017

The Honorable Peter Welch  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2303 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Welch:

Thank you for your letter supporting the recent establishment of the Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee (BDAC). In your letter, you urge that the BDAC be tasked with a targeted goal of closing the digital divide in rural America.

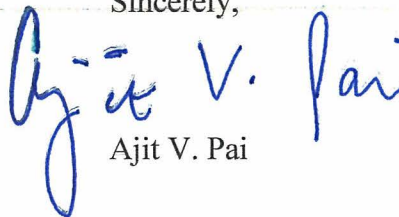
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Ajit V. Pai





OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

April 26, 2017

The Honorable Doris Matsui  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2311 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Matsui:

Thank you for your letter supporting the recent establishment of the Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee (BDAC). In your letter, you urge that the BDAC be tasked with a targeted goal of closing the digital divide in rural America.

I share your desire to close the digital divide for the many rural Americans that lack sufficient high-speed internet access. I am focused on doing everything within the FCC's power to close the digital divide, as I said in my first remarks to the agency's terrific professional staff. The work of the BDAC will be a crucial component in our efforts to achieve this goal.

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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

April 26, 2017

The Honorable Dave Loebsack  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1527 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Loebsack:

Thank you for your letter supporting the recent establishment of the Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee (BDAC). In your letter, you urge that the BDAC be tasked with a targeted goal of closing the digital divide in rural America.

I share your desire to close the digital divide for the many rural Americans that lack sufficient high-speed internet access. I am focused on doing everything within the FCC's power to close the digital divide, as I said in my first remarks to the agency's terrific professional staff. The work of the BDAC will be a crucial component in our efforts to achieve this goal.

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Sincerely,

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Ajit V. Pai